



## **ARTS AND CULTURE: The Heart of Our Daily Lives**

**The State of Michigan is preparing its General Fund Budget for the upcoming 2003 – 04 Fiscal Year, which will require a \$1.7 billion or 20% reduction in order to balance.**

**This scenario spells URGENCY for the arts and cultural community and requires an active response by grassroots arts advocates.**

**These inevitable drastic budget cuts make the Department of History, Arts and Libraries and the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs' Arts and Culture Grants very vulnerable to disproportionate funding decreases, or even elimination.**

### **THE MESSAGE TO YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS:**

The key to developing the State's budget is not to concentrate on what needs to be cut, but what is most important to include in the budget.

- Arts and culture are at the heart of each of the State's current priorities: education, children and family services, health care, and economic development.
- Arts and culture are a major industry in Michigan! Arts organizations, for-profit arts businesses, and arts-related industries generate significant economic activity and tourism.
- The arts and culture are a critical component in the economic revitalization of our communities, bringing new life, economic activity, and pride to neglected urban areas.
- The arts are a critical link in fostering partnerships between the nonprofit sector, the business sector, and private and community foundations for leveraging dollars for education and community programs that enhance the quality of life in our state.
- Arts education is a key component of a complete educational experience for our children, building skills such as creative thinking and spatial reasoning, especially for at-risk children.
- Arts and cultural organizations provide programs that promote healthy family relationships.
- Medical science is increasingly realizing that exposure to the arts contributes positively to people's sense of well-being in general, as well as assisting in patient rehabilitation.

**In summary, the arts are at the heart of *all* of the State of Michigan's priorities, and thus it is critical to *include* funding for arts and culture in the budget. The arts are *not* a luxury!**

## SOME KEY FACTS AND FIGURES:

- The State of Michigan has supported the arts since 1966. State arts funding reached \$25.6 million in FY 2000 – 01. However, declining state revenues have since eroded funding to the current level of \$22.4 million, the lowest since 1978 – 79.
- From 1997 to 2001, the state appropriated a total of \$39.3 million in one-time grants to arts organizations, mostly for capital improvement projects.
- The most recent survey by the National Association of State Arts Agencies reports that, based on initial funding for FY 2002 – 03, Michigan ranks fifth in the nation in arts funding on a per-capita basis. Only New York and Florida appropriate more total dollars for the arts than Michigan.
- A 2001 report by Wayne State University's Center for Art and Public Policy states that the creative arts industry generates \$46 billion dollars in annual payroll. The arts account for 6.5% of Michigan's total economic activity, more than health services and construction. 28,634 arts-related businesses employ 307,113 people with an annual payroll of \$6.8 billion. Every state dollar spent on the arts yields a total return ranging from \$3 to \$10, depending on the economic model used.
- A recent national study by KPMG Peat Marwick found that among professionals seeking jobs, quality of life issues ranked second in importance after salary and ahead of fringe benefits. The arts are a critical component of quality of life in communities.
- Nationally recognized business leaders are increasingly quoted as saying that quality of life issues are critical to business decisions. Businesses increasingly seek and hire applicants with arts exposure because people with arts backgrounds possess the creative thinking skills needed to manage the complexities of today's highly competitive global economy.
- A 1998 survey by the National Endowment for the Arts reported that spending on performing arts events was roughly 1.6 times greater than on either spectator sporting events or movies.
- A recent survey by the Travel Industry Association of America revealed that two-thirds of American adult travelers included a cultural, arts, heritage, or historic activity on a trip of 50 miles or more from home, one way.
- The Federal *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001* for the first time recognized the arts as a core academic subject. Michigan's blueprint for accrediting schools, *Education YES!*, for the first time included arts education as an indicator of instructional quality.
- The National Education Longitude Study of 25,000 8th and 10th graders revealed that involvement with the arts was linked to higher academic performance, increased standardized test scores, and lower dropout rates.
- A landmark study by the US Department of Justice demonstrated that arts education has significant beneficial effects on at-risk youth.
- Since 1971, historical preservation/rehabilitation of homes and sites in Michigan has created 20,250 jobs and generated \$1.7 billion in direct and indirect economic impact.